



## Laceration sustained whilst using faulty bin lifter

**Alert No.** HSEQ-SA-143  
**Date of issue** 15/12/2022

### Hazard/incident description:

A City team member was in the process of emptying rubbish bins at a Coles Distribution Centre when they received a laceration injury.

While attempting to empty multiple 240 litre wheelie bins into a large skip, a City team member noticed that the bin lifter tray that they were using to empty the bins was not lowering due to an accumulation of rubbish beneath it. The team member removed the rubbish and then proceeded to lower the cage door. In order for the bin lifter to operate safely, the cage door needs to be lowered so that it can latch and engage the interlocking device.

As the team member leant forward and attempted to guide the cage door down to allow the door to interlock, a castor wheel bracket has fallen and contacted the team members arm causing a minor laceration that required stitches.



### Key contributing factors:

- Suspected gas strut failure on cage door preventing the cage door from engaging the interlocks.
- The bin lifter was not tagged out of service when it was identified that the interlocks were not engaging correctly.
- A hazard was not raised when it was identified that the bin lifter was not operating correctly.
- A castor wheel bracket was placed on the top of the cage door to weigh the door down and enable the interlocks to latch.
- The faulty bin lifter continued to be used due to perceived time pressure to continue to undertake cleaning services.
- Inadequate bin lifter operation training was provided to team members.

### All City team members are reminded to:

- Ensure that any faulty, damaged, or defective plant is to be immediately reported and locked or tagged of service.

### Key preventative actions to be taken:

- HSE & Operations team to review incident with all team members involved.
- Provide relevant team members with refresher training related to hazard reporting and Coles tag out procedures.
- Bin lifter removed from service, inspected and repaired.
- Provide relevant team members with refresher training as per SWMS-23 Handling Industrial-Wheelie Bins and Operation of Bin Lifter.

For further information, contact Jennifer Hoffman, Regional HSE Manager QLD Mob: 0419 740 115

This Safety Alert provides a summary only of the subject matter covered. City Holdings (AUS) Pty Ltd assumes no responsibility to outside parties for any action they may take in relation to the content of this Safety Alert.